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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Tomoaki ARAI, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/611,976

GROUP: 3637

FILED: July 3, 2003

EXAMINER: T. M. AYRES

FOR: ARTICLE TRANSPORTING/STORING DEVICE

LETTER

Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is an European Search Report for the Examiner's consideration. The reference(s) cited therein have been previously filed on October 6, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Reference
55 188 VIII

Application No./Patent No.
05015094.5 - 2308

Applicant/Proprietor
Ricoh Company, Ltd.

Communication

The extended European search report is enclosed.

The extended European search report includes, pursuant to Rule 44a EPC, the European search report (R. 44 EPC) or the partial European search report/ declaration of no search (R. 45 EPC) and the European search opinion.

Copies of documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ 1 additional set(s) of copies of such documents is (are) enclosed as well.

The following have been approved:

☐ Abstract

☒ Title

☒ the Abstract was modified and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

Refund of the search fee

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 05 01 5094

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
1 Filed 10/06/03	X DE 15 56 719 B (BLICKLE FA H) 9 March 1972 (1972-03-09) A * column 1, lines 48-57 * * figures 1-6 *	1-4,7,8 5,6	B65D19/38 B65D19/12 B65D19/44
Filed	X FR 2 638 431 A (SARTEC SERVICES IND DIV TAILLE) 4 May 1990 (1990-05-04) A * page 4, line 24 - page 5, line 7 * * figures 1,4 *	1-4,7 5,6	
Filed	X US 6 279 763 B1 (BUSH JEFFREY) 28 August 2001 (2001-08-28) A * column 2, lines 19-30 * * column 3, lines 12-19 * * column 3, line 55 - column 4, line 7 * * figures 1,2,4 *	1-4,7 5,6	
Filed	X PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN ✓ vol. 2002, no. 05, 3 May 2002 (2002-05-03) -& JP 2002 029539 A (SETO SAIICHI), 29 January 2002 (2002-01-29) A * abstract * * figures 1-8 *	1-4,7 6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B65D
Filed	X DE 25 06 746 A (FENDT & CO XAVER) 26 August 1976 (1976-08-26) * figures 1,2 *	1-4,7	
Filed	X US 3 648 909 A (WISECARVER WARREN R) 14 March 1972 (1972-03-14) * column 1, line 61 - column 2, line 52 * * figures 1,2 *	1-4,7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
2	Place of search Munich	Date of completion of the search 21 October 2005	Examiner Piolat, O
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 05 01 5094

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

21-10-2005

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 1556719	B	09-03-1972	NL 137779 C	
FR 2638431	A	04-05-1990	NONE	
US 6279763	B1	28-08-2001	AU 4732101 A	24-09-2001
			EP 1261266 A1	04-12-2002
			JP 2003526579 T	09-09-2003
			WO 0167927 A1	20-09-2001
JP 2002029539	A	29-01-2002	NONE	
DE 2506746	A	26-08-1976	NONE	
US 3648909	A	14-03-1972	NONE	



ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

05015094.5

An article transporting/storing device of the present invention includes a table (2) to be loaded with a desired article. A pair of post units (3,3A) are spaced from each other, and each include two posts (6,106) connected together. A pair of unit supporting devices (4,4A) respectively support the two post units on the table such that the post units are selectively locked in a position in which they stand substantially vertically on the table or unlocked and allowed to be angularly moved toward the mount surface (13) of the table between the post units.



Bescheid/Protokoll (Anlage)

Communication/Minutes (Annex)

Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)

Datum
Date
Date

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Anmelde-Nr.:
Application No.: 05 015 094.5
Demande n°:

The examination is being carried out on the following application documents:

Description, Pages

1-16 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-8 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/10-10/10 as originally filed

- 1 The wording of the claims introduces subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the parent application as filed, contrary to Article 76(1) EPC.

- 1.1 When drafting claim 1, the applicant has deleted the following features of claim 1 of the parent application:
a pair of post units spaced from each other and each comprising two posts connected together; and
unit supporting means supporting said pair of post units on said table such that said pair of post units are selectively locked in a position in which said posts each stand substantially vertically on said table or unlocked and allowed to be angularly moved toward a mount surface of said table between said pair of post units.

These features are presented in the parent application as essential in the disclosure of the invention as well as indispensable as such for the function of the invention in the light of the technical problem which it seeks to solve. The deletion of these features introduces therefore subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the parent application as filed.

- 1.2 The applicant has introduced the following feature in claim 1:
the post unit being equipped with a retaining device for retaining the article which is loaded on the table.

This feature has been disclosed in the parent application only in combination with



Bescheid/Protokoll (Anlage)

Communication/Minutes (Annex)

Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)

Datum
Date
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Anmelde-Nr.:

Application No.:

Demande n°:

05 015 094.5

other features, namely the features of claim 6 of the parent application. The introduction of this feature into claim 1 without the aforementioned features introduces therefore subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the parent application as filed.

- 1.3 The feature defined in claim 2 has been disclosed in the parent application only in combination with other features, namely the features of claim 6 of the parent application. The subject-matter of claim 2 per se has therefore no support in the parent application, and thus, claim 2 introduces subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the parent application as filed.
- 1.4 The feature defined in claim 7 has been disclosed in the parent application only in combination with other features, namely the features of claim 7 of the parent application. The subject-matter of claim 7 per se has therefore no support in the parent application, and thus, claim 7 introduces subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the parent application as filed.
- 2 In the further prosecution of the application, failure to file an amended set of claims which complies with Article 76(1) EPC may lead to refusal of the application under Article 97(1) EPC.

Furthermore, it is mentioned that the subject-matter claimed in the divisional application must differ from that of the parent application, see the Guidelines C-VI, 9.1.6.